

# CHAPTER 5

## CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

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### **5.A. Introduction**

The BLM and the Forest Service must prepare a joint management plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument as required by the National Monument Act of 2000, the legislation that designated the National Monument. The legislation requires that a management plan be completed by October 2003. The vision for the National Monument Management Plan has been to create a community-based and supported document while meeting the national and Federal policies regarding the management of National Monuments.

Under NEPA, the Federal government is required to consider the impacts of proposed Federal actions prior to taking actions. The public scoping process is designed to involve the public in identifying issues and determining the scope of issues to be addressed by Federal agencies when proposing actions. In the case of the National Monument, the public scoping process was and continues to be the forum to ensure that public interest is addressed in establishing the framework for the future of the National Monument.

The Monument Advisory Committee, as described in the National Monument Act of 2000, was created to develop a collaborative environment between the public and Federal, State, Tribal, and local officials to make the best decisions for management of the public lands within the National Monument. The BLM and the Forest Service have also worked with local governments to identify opportunities to enter into cooperative agreements with them in the development of the National Monument Management Plan.

### **5.B. Public Participation**

#### **Advertising and Announcements – Spring 2002**

The scoping process for the National Monument Management Plan began in Spring 2002 with the publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on 14 March, which notified the public of BLM and Forest Service intent to develop a management plan for those BLM-managed and National Forest lands within and adjacent to the National Monument. The NOI also solicited public comments.

To inform interested parties about upcoming public scoping meetings for Plan preparation, the location, date, and time for a series of public scoping meetings were published in the form of a news release in April 2002. This news release was mailed to 450 recipients, representing individuals, special interest groups, organizations, Federal, local and State officials.

Newspaper advertisements, a press release, and a 30-second cable television spot by John Walsh of America's Most Wanted were issued to notify the public of the planning project, to announce the five public scoping meetings, to request public comments and to provide mailing list contact information. Content of advertisements and the press release was coordinated with BLM and Forest Service staff. The press release was also faxed to 31 newspaper, radio, and television stations. In addition, local groups were called and faxed to increase the size of the audience reached. Meeting notification was published in *The Desert Sun* on 17 April, 22 April, 03 May and 15 May, *The Desert Weekly* on 18 April and 02 May, *The Town Crier* (Idyllwild) on 18 April and 02 May, *The Press Enterprise* on 24 April, and *El Informador* in April. KVCR aired notification of the

meetings on 24 April, and KPCI recorded a radio interview on 13 May. The scoping meeting dates and locations were presented at the Monument Advisory Committee meeting on 06 April. Prior to the publication of this scoping report, the Monument Advisory Committee met twice (28 January, 2002 and 06 April, 2002).

### **Public Scoping Meetings – Spring 2002**

Public scoping meetings were held throughout the Coachella Valley and in the mountain communities in Spring 2002 at the following locations: Indio Senior Center – 02 May, Palm Springs Desert Museum – 04 May; Palm Desert City Hall – 15 May; Idyllwild Town Hall – 24 April; Pinyon Elks Lodge – 15 May. A total of 190 persons attended the public meetings, with the largest meeting attendance at the Pinyon Elks Lodge.

All meetings were designed to provide information and to capture public comments. Each meeting began with a 20-minute slide presentation providing: (1) a brief review of the National Monument; (2) the relationship of the National Monument Management Plan to other ongoing planning efforts in the area; (3) preliminary planning issues; and (4) an overview of the planning process and timeline.

### **Public Workshops – Fall 2002**

Additional meetings were held in Fall 2002 to provide the public an opportunity to review the scoping comments that were collected during the scoping phase of the planning process. This Public Meeting Scoping Report was also posted on the National Monument website. Fall 2002 meetings were designed to inform the public how to read the scoping report and how to distinguish the way in which public scoping comments were being addressed (via the National Monument Management Plan or via another related planning effort).

### **Draft National Monument Management Plan/ DEIS Public Hearings and Comment Period – Spring 2003**

The Draft National Monument Management Plan/DEIS was made available to the public on March 21, 2003. Notification of the availability of this Plan was published in the Federal Register. Three public hearings in Spring 2003 provided an overview of the Draft National Monument Management Plan/DEIS, and a court reporter was present to capture verbal public comments. Meetings were held at the following locations: Idyllwild – 22 April; Pinyon Elks Lodge – 24 April; Palm Desert City Hall – 29 April. A total of 30 comment letters were received, which included 246 substantive comments. All comment letters and the responses to those comments are included in Appendix L.

### **National Monument Website**

A website ([www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings](http://www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings)) was created to provide general information about the National Monument. The site provides a proposed timeline for the completion of the National Monument Management Plan and other information about the Plan, a copy of the Legislation creating the National Monument, commonly asked questions about the National Monument, and a listing of the Monument Advisory Committee members and dates for upcoming meetings. The Internet site provided another location for posting the NOI to begin planning for the National Monument as well as the dates, locations and times for the five public scoping meetings. The website will continue to provide information about the National Monument throughout the planning process. The following email address was established to receive comments regarding the National Monument Management Plan and is posted on the website: [ca\\_srsj\\_nm@ca.blm.gov](mailto:ca_srsj_nm@ca.blm.gov).

### **National Mailing Database**

The BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office maintains the mailing list for the National Monument. Additions and deletions are managed within the Field Office while BLM headquarters maintains the entire mailing database.

### **Next Phase**

The Proposed Final Environmental Impact Statement is available for a 30 day protest period, beginning on the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes notice in the Federal Register. Adversely affected entities and persons who previously participated in the planning process may file protests to the Director in accordance with Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1610.5-2. Land use plan decisions are not appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, and are not subject to regulations at 43 CFR Part 4.4. Upon resolution of any protests, the Director then renders a final decision on the protest. The Proposed Environmental Impact Statement becomes effective when the State Director signs the Record of Decision for the plan. Prior to the initiation of the protest period, copies of the Final EIS were sent to all persons who had previously requested copies or submitted comments on the Draft EIS. The Approved National Monument Management Plan/Record of Decision (ROD) is expected to be completed by January 31, 2004.

## **5.C. Consultation and Coordination with Tribes, Intergovernmental (Federal, State, County, City and Local) Agencies, and Interest Groups**

### **5.C.1. Monument Advisory Committee**

The development of this National Monument Management Plan was coordinated with the Monument Advisory Committee that was established to provide recommendations regarding the development of the Plan. The purpose of the Monument Advisory Committee is to advise the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture with respect to the preparation and implementation of the Plan for the conservation and protection of the National Monument.

The Monument Advisory Committee is composed of citizens appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture. The committee is to provide advice to the BLM and Forest Service with respect to preparation and implementation of the National Monument Management Plan as required in the National Monument Act of 2000. The act authorized establishment of the Monument Advisory Committee with representative members from State and local jurisdictions, the ACBCI, a local conservation organization, a local building organization or developer, the Winter Park Authority, the Pinyon Community Council and a natural science expert. The charter of the Monument Advisory Committee is being reviewed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture for possible revision to allow the committee to serve beyond completion of the National Monument Management Plan.

The Monument Advisory Committee was appointed in November 2001 and met every other month for a total of eight Saturdays prior to the publication of the Draft National Monument Management Plan. In addition, the Monument Advisory Committee established four Working Groups (Cultural, Access and Recreation, Land Acquisition, and Planning) to meet outside of the Saturday meetings to develop additional recommendations for BLM and Forest Service. These Working Group meetings were open to the public and provided an additional forum for input regarding National Monument management.

In December 2002, the Monument Advisory Committee presented a report (Appendix B) outlining recommendations to the BLM and Forest Service regarding National Monument Management Plan development. These recommendations were used to help formulate Plan Alternatives. In June 2003, the Monument Advisory Committee presented a report outlining comments on the published Draft National Monument Management Plan/DEIS (Appendix K).

### **5.C.2. Tribal Coordination and Consultation**

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 require the BLM to coordinate with Indian Tribes on land use planning. Consultation on a government-to-government basis with Indian Tribes is also directed by NEPA, the NHPA, and EO 13007.

Government-to-government consultation was initiated by letter in May 2002. This letter introduced the need for and intent of the planning process and invited Tribal comment and participation in the planning process. The ACBCI, Augustine Band of Mission Indians, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians, Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Mission Indians, Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians, and Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians were contacted. Follow-up discussions occurred with staff members of the ACBCI. The ACBCI was actively engaged in a similar land use planning process that paralleled BLM and Forest Service efforts. The Tribal HCP establishes (1) a Mountains and Canyons Conservation Area (MCCA) in which (a) certain lands will be dedicated to the Habitat Preserve, and (b) general and species-specific conservation measures will be imposed on Covered Projects and/or implemented by the Tribe, and (2) a Valley Floor Conservation Area (VFCA) for which (a) funding will generally be required for acquisition and management of additional Habitat Preserve lands, and (b) an additional conservation program including avoidance and minimization measures, assurances for establishment of the Habitat Preserve, adaptive management and monitoring, implementation and funding, and amendment procedures and conditions for changed and unforeseen circumstances.

In November 2002, as the planning document evolved and potential land management actions became more clearly defined, a second letter was sent to update Tribes and to continue government-to-government consultation. This letter solicited comments related to cultural resources or areas of traditional cultural importance. This second letter was sent to the following Tribes: The ACBCI, Augustine Band of Mission Indians, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians, Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Mission Indians, Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians, and Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. The BLM also requested a record search of the sacred lands files of the California Native American Heritage Commission.

Given the parallel planning effort and the inter-related nature of some decisions, BLM and Forest Service met regularly with members of the ACBCI to coordinate planning Alternatives, proposals and analysis. BLM and Forest Service met several times with the Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians, including a field trip to sites within the National Monument. The BLM and Forest Service attended several Tribal Association of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN) meetings to solicit comments regarding management

of the National Monument. With the assistance of TASIN and the ACBCI, the BLM and Forest Service scheduled additional meetings to involve Tribal members and staff in the planning process. Tribes were also notified of the dates of public scoping, Monument Advisory Committee, and Working Group meetings. The Cultural Resources Working Group of the Monument Advisory Committee met regularly to develop input for the National Monument Management Plan. Representatives of several Tribes attended Cultural Resources Working Group meetings. The National Monument Manager met with the Tribal Councils of the Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians, the Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians, the Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians, and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

Copies of the Draft National Monument Management Plan were distributed to the Tribes upon publication. Letters were sent to the above listed Tribes in April 2003 inviting comments and extending the offer to meet with interested Tribes. A form was included in order for tribes to request a presentation about the planning document should they wish to have any of the information clarified. Follow-up to this letter was conducted by phone. National Monument staff met with the Cultural Resources Working Group two times during the 90-day comment period. Staff-level contact also occurred between agency and Tribal cultural resources staff.

#### **5.C.3. Intergovernmental – Federal and State**

The 1998 State Protocol Agreement between the California State Director of the BLM and the California State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) requires that the BLM invite SHPO participation in land use plans in order to provide an opportunity to (1) identify issues that should be addressed in the proposed plan and (2) comment on any proposed cultural resource allocation. An early notification and invitation to participate in identification of issues was submitted to the SHPO in September 2002. BLM also submits draft and final land use plans to SHPO for review and comment.

In conformance with Section 7 of the ESA, in March 2003, BLM initiated informal consultation with USFWS on actions proposed in the Draft National Monument Management Plan/DEIS as they affect the National Monument planning area. The purpose of the consultation was to ensure that the combined effect of Federal actions authorized under the land use plan is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species, or result in the adverse modification of critical habitat of such species. The formal consultation process will be completed upon issuance of a BO by the USFWS.

Coordination between State agencies and the BLM and Forest Service regarding lands within the boundary of the National Monument has consisted of involvement during interagency Working Group meetings during plan formation as well as representation on the Monument Advisory Committee. As established by the National Monument Act of 2000, one position on the Monument Advisory Committee includes a representative of the CDFG or the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks). Throughout the planning process, this position was filled by a member of State Parks. Each of the eight Monument Advisory Committee meetings held as of February 2003 was also attended by a representative of CDFG. An additional State agency represented on the Monument Advisory Committee is the Coachella Mountains Conservancy.

#### **5.C.4. Intergovernmental – County, City, and Local Coordination and Interest Groups**

In September 1994, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), representing the county of Riverside and the nine incorporated cities of the region, took the lead in developing a landscape-level conservation plan, the CVMSHCP. Throughout this planning process, the cities and County have been coordinating with BLM and Forest Service to address multi-jurisdictional issues in the National Monument. Although this process is happening outside of the scope of the National Monument Management Plan, the development of a trails management plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains has resulted in intensive coordination among local jurisdictions and Federal agencies regarding trail issues.

The Forest Plan Revision process (in progress) for the San Bernardino National Forest has included a number of public meetings held in the mountain communities of the National Monument. Representation at those evening meetings by National Monument staff has resulted in cross-planning effort dialog with local communities. Coordination between the National Monument planning team and the Forest Service planning team has allowed additional opportunities to hear comments and concerns about issues within the National Monument. Although the Forest Service planning process is addressing issues outside of the scope of the National Monument Management Plan, items brought forward from the public have been used to aid in the development of the National Monument Management Plan.

Coordination between County, city, and local jurisdictions and the BLM and Forest Service regarding lands within the boundary of the National Monument has also consisted of involvement by representation on the Monument Advisory Committee. The Monument Advisory Committee includes County, city, and local representation (County of Riverside, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, La Quinta, Palm Desert, and the Community of Pinyon). Each of these members was able to provide input and review through the 10 Monument Advisory Committee meetings and additional Working Group meetings.

Multiple interests were represented through the scoping comments and letters received and through comments received on the Draft National Monument Management Plan/DEIS. Workshops held within the community resulted in much dialogue concerning interests within the National Monument. Several interest groups are represented through the Monument Advisory Committee (one member each representing: Conservation interests, local developer/building organization interests, Winter Park Authority (Palm Springs Aerial Tramway) interests, and academic interests). During the development of the Draft National Monument Management Plan, the Monument Advisory Committee met eight times as a full group and numerous times in Working Groups. During the 90-day comment period, the Monument Advisory Committee met twice and provided a report outlining Committee comments on the Draft National Monument Management Plan.

#### **5.C.5. Interagency Working Group**

In 2001, an Interagency Working Group was established to assist in proposed project development within the National Monument and in development of the National Monument Management Plan. The group consists of staff representatives from Forest Service, BLM, State Parks, CDFG, ACBCI, Caltrans, and Desert Sheriff's Search and Rescue. The group met numerous times to develop issue content for the National

Monument Management Plan and to discuss public scoping issues that were brought forward through the planning process. These meetings were an integral component of sharing community concerns raised through scoping with partner agencies within the National Monument. This group was fully involved in document preparation to ensure that partner agency information was accurate as integrated into the Plan.

#### **5.C.6. Service First**

The National Monument will be cooperatively managed by the BLM and Forest Service to promote consistency between the two lead agencies. Service First is a BLM-Forest Service innovation to create seamless service for citizens. It gives local units the opportunity to streamline multiple processes and regulations, combines management of adjacent BLM and National Forest lands, and offers one-stop shopping and a single point of contact for all customers - commercial users, partners and visitors. Coordination between the two agencies is critical to providing improved customer service for land users on both BLM and National Forest lands within the National Monument. Methods for sharing data and information have been established through the development of the National Monument Management Plan, and methods will continue to improve as both agencies continue to approach user conflicts and management issues in a cooperative manner. The BLM and Forest Service will continue to strive to reach the three goals of Service First: (1) enhance customer service; (2) improve operational efficiency and effectiveness; and (3) improve the stewardship of natural resources.

#### **5.D. Proposed National Monument Management Plan/FEIS Distribution List**

A news release announcing the availability of the Proposed National Monument Management Plan/DEIS with instructions of how to obtain an electronic or paper copy was mailed to over 1,400 individuals, private landowners and interest groups, and governmental agencies. This document is also available for public viewing at the following website: [www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings](http://www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings). The following is a list of representatives and agencies that were directly mailed copies of the Proposed National Monument Management Plan/FEIS.

##### Multiple copies sent to:

Environmental Protection Agency (five copies)  
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (four copies)

##### Federal

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Congresswoman Mary Bono  
Congressman Jerry Lewis  
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington D.C.  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Coachella Valley Refuge  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - Yuma Field Office  
National Park Service - Joshua Tree National Park  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Director, Bureau of Land Management  
Natural Resource Conservation Service



Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Chief, Forest Service

State of California

Office of the Governor  
State Senator Jim Battin  
Assemblyman Bonnie Garcia  
South Coast Air Quality Management District  
California Department of Fish and Game – Eastern Sierra Inland Deserts Region  
California Department of Parks and Recreation – Colorado Desert District  
California Department of Parks and Recreation – Inland Empire District  
California Office of Historic Preservation  
Anza Borrego Desert State Park  
Mt. San Jacinto State Park  
University of California, Riverside - Deep Canyon Reserve  
University of California, Riverside - Conservation Biology  
University of California Cooperative Extension  
Winter Park Authority  
Wildlife Conservation Board  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy  
Caltrans  
State Clearinghouse  
State Office of Historic Preservation

Indian Tribes

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Augustine Band of Mission Indians  
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians  
Cahuilla Band of Indians  
Los Coyotes Band of Indians  
Morongo Band of Mission Indians  
Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians  
Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians  
Soboba Band of Mission Indians  
Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians  
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

Local Jurisdictions

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
County of Riverside  
Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District  
Riverside County Transportation Commission  
City of Cathedral City  
City of Coachella  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
City of Idyllwild  
City of Indian Wells  
City of Indio  
City of La Quinta  
City of Rancho Mirage  
City of Palm Desert

City of Palm Springs  
Pinyon Community Council  
Desert Water Agency  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Metropolitan Water District  
Pinyon Water Agency  
Center for Natural Lands Management

Interest Groups and Other Group Recipients

Andreas Canyon Club  
Backcountry Horsemen of California  
Bighorn Institute  
Building Industry Association, Desert Chapter  
California Native Plant Society  
California Wilderness Coalition  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Citizens Against Recreational Eviction-USA  
Coachella Valley Archaeology Society  
Desert Adventures  
Desert Protective Council  
Desert Riders  
Friends of the Desert Mountains  
Friends of the Earth, Interior Watchdog Group  
Idyllwild Nature Center  
International Mountain Biking Association  
The Living Desert  
Mountain Coalition  
National Forest Volunteer Association  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Natural Science Collaborative of the Desert Region  
The Nature Conservancy  
NNC Bicycle Club  
Organization against Toxic Exposure  
Pacific Crest Trail Association  
Palm Springs Aerial Tramway  
Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism  
Palm Springs Desert Museum  
Shadow Mountain Gem and Mineral Society  
Sierra Club, Lands Protection Program  
Sierra Club, National and Local Chapters  
Society for American Archaeology  
U.S. Public Interest Research Group, Public Lands Advocate  
Vista Santa Rosa  
Wildlife Society

**5.E. List of Preparers**

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Staff

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Kevin Doran, Natural Resource Specialist  
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Tom Sherman, Fire Prevention Officer  
Lisa Wirtz, Ranger  
Ron Woychak, Fire Management Officer  
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Gary Cotterell, Computer Specialist

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Ruth Wenstrom, Public Affairs and Planner  
Ron Pugh, Planner, Forest Plan Revision, Team Lead  
Timothy Williams, Special Areas Coordinator, Region 5  
Ron Lawson, Recreation Planner  
John Ladley, Recreation Specialist  
Anne Poopatanapong, District Biologist  
Melinda Lyon, Wilderness Specialist  
Norm Walker, Fire Management  
Chris Chandler, Geographic Information Systems Specialist  
Pat Boss, Visitor Information Specialist

John Neu, Special Uses Administrator  
Cecilia Reed, Special Uses Administrator  
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Melody Lardner, Forest Botanist  
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Special recognition to the following for their review, input and assistance

Monument Advisory Committee and Working Groups  
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Robert Brockman, Community Development Director, City of Rancho Mirage  
Buford Crites, Council member and former Mayor, City of Palm Desert  
Bary Freet, Palm Springs Fire Chief, resident of Cathedral City  
Barbara Gonzales Lyons, V. Chairman, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
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Edward Kibbey, Building Industry Association, local building organization  
Bob Lyman, Regional Office Manager, County of Riverside  
Jeffrey Morgan, Sierra Club, local conservation organization  
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Rob Parkins, General Manager, Winter Park Authority  
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Jim Bartell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
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